

Hog Butcher for the World, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler; Stormy, husky, brawling, City of the Big Shoulders

his is how American poet Carl Sandburg famously described Chicago, the city that best captures the can-do spirit of the American Midwest. Known throughout the years for its industrial might, iron-fisted politicians, notorious criminals, and fiery political protests, the City of the Big Shoulders has emerged in the twenty-first century as a world-class metropolis. Now the third largest city in the United States, it is recognized for its financial district, spectacular skyline, renowned architecture, and internationally-acclaimed parks, museums, and cultural institutions.

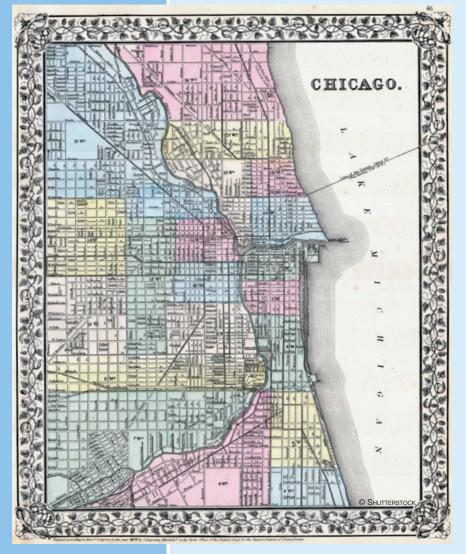
Once famous mainly for stockyards and steel mills, Chicago now boasts more top-rated five-star restaurants than any other city in the United States and has been voted by various publications as one of the "Top 10 U.S. Destinations," one of the "Best Walking Cities" in the United States, and one of the "Ten Best Places to Live."

The Early Days

The name *Chicago* comes from a Native American term, *Checagou*, believed to refer to a wild onion that grew abundantly along the swampy shores of Lake Michigan. The first Europeans to explore the area were a French-Canadian missionary, Father Jacques Marquette, and a cartographer, Louis Jolliet, who journeyed up the Mississippi and its tributaries in 1673. But it was not until a century later that Jean Baptiste du Sable, a fur trader of French-African descent, established a permanent settlement that would eventually become the city of Chicago.

In 1833, the tiny settlement, with a population of 350 hearty souls and covering just three-eighths of a square mile, was incorporated as the Town of Chicago. The town

Antique map of Chicago in 1870.



thrived as hostilities with Native Americans came to an end and construction began on the Illinois and Michigan Canal that would provide a shipping link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. Within a few years, the population swelled to 4,000, and in 1837 Chicago was incorporated as a city.

One of the most important years in the young city's history, 1848, brought Chicago's first telegraph connection, the opening of the first rail link, completion of the 100-mile Illinois and Michigan Canal, and the founding of the Chicago Board of Trade to regulate the growing grain trade. With the founding of the Union Stockyards in 1865, Chicago soon became the center of the U.S. meatpacking industry. By the turn of the twentieth century, the 100 companies within the stockyards employed 30,000 workers.

The booming economy also attracted entrepreneurs such as Marshall Field, whose dry goods establishment would become a landmark department story bearing his name; the founders of retail giants Sears, Roebuck and Company and Montgomery Ward, who pioneered mail-order catalogs; and Cyrus McCormick, inventor and manufacturer of grain harvesting machines.

Because of its position as a central railway hub and proximity to iron ore deposits in the Great Lakes region, Chicago in the latter part of the nineteenth century became one of the world's leading steel producers and would remain so for decades. Chicago was booming. Not yet 70 years old, it was by 1900 the fifth largest city in the world, with more than a million residents.

Prior to the turn of the century, life was not always pleasant for Chicagoans, who were often mired in mud and besieged by disease. Because the city was built on a flat swampy plain, spring muds were so deep that horses' legs became stuck in the streets. Sewers dumped waste into the Chicago River, which emptied into Lake Michigan, source of the city's drinking water, leading to devastating cholera and typhoid epidemics. The problem was solved in 1900, when the newly completed Sanitary and Ship Canal permanently reversed the flow of the Chicago River and



sent the city's waste south to the Illinois River instead of into Lake Michigan. The new canal doubled as the main shipping route, replacing the old Illinois and Michigan Canal.

New City Forged by Fire

The single cataclysmic event that shaped the future of the city was the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which started in the barn of an Irish immigrant family named O'Leary. According to legend, the conflagration started when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern. The real cause of the fire remains a mystery, but its toll is all too well known. Fueled by strong winds and the city's abundant wooden structures, it raged for three days and consumed much of the city. At least 300 people died, and 100,000 people—a third of the city's population—lost their homes.

Amid the devastation and despair, Chicagoans saw an opportunity to redesign and expand their city. Prominent architects drawn to the city in the aftermath of the fire pioneered new steel-frame construction that led to the invention of the skyscraper. The first such structure, the 10-story Home Insurance Building, was erected in 1885. Today Chicago is home to some of the tallest buildings in the world.

Eager to show off its new look, Chicago staged the 1893 World Columbian Exposition to celebrate (albeit a year late) the 400th anniversary of the landing of Columbus in Amer-

ica. Considered one of the most influential world fairs ever held, the exposition attracted 27.5 million visitors over a six-month period, many of them transported from downtown by the city's first elevated train. The Exposition site featured gleaming white exhibition halls, known as the White City, designed by leading architects of the day, beautifully landscaped grounds, and outdoor sculptures fashioned by such prominent artists as Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Daniel Chester French. Amusements and concessions were clustered along a mile-long avenue called the Midway Plaisance. (To this day, the entertainment strip of every state and country fair in the United States is called a "midway.") Dominating the Midway Plaisance was the world's first Ferris wheel, a gigantic structure 250 feet high with 36 cars capable of holding 60 people each. (Much more modest versions are still popular fixtures at virtually every fair and amusement park in the United States, including Chicago's Navy Pier.)

Prohibition, Politics, and Protests

Much of Chicago's history has been dominated by colorful characters, both famous and infamous. One of the most turbulent times was the era of Prohibition that began in 1919 when Congress passed and the states ratified the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, outlawing the manufacture and

Today's Museum of Science and Industry is the only building that remains from the World Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893.



Chicago is located at the southwestern tip of Lake Michigan, the fifth largest lake in the world.

sale of alcoholic beverages. With the national prohibition on alcohol, gangs of "bootleggers"—named for the habit of concealing flasks of alcohol in the legs of boots—soon began producing and distributing beer and liquor. Fierce competition led to bloody confrontations with police and between rival gangs, and Chicago, where bootlegging was dominated by a notorious gangster named Al Capone, became synonymous with 1920s crime and violence. (Bootlegging subsided after Prohibition was repealed in 1933 by the Twenty-first Amendment to the Constitution.)

The 1930s ushered in the era of "machine" politics, when mayors and other city officials maintained their power by doling out patronage jobs and favors

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in return for political support. The most skilled of Chicago's machine politicians was mayor Richard J. Daley, who served six terms from 1955 until 1976, when he died in office. Daley is especially remembered for his hard-line response to Vietnam War protesters at the 1968 Democratic Party convention, which led to a police riot in the streets outside the convention hall and scuffles on the convention floor.

The Windy City

The "hot air" of politicians and protesters might account in part for Chicago's reputation as the Windy City. More likely the nickname was inspired by the persistent winds blowing off Lake Michigan and funneling down city streets. But, in truth, Chicago is not appreciably windier than any other American city.

Chicago's climate, like its history and economy, is defined by its location at the southwestern tip of Lake Michigan, the fifth largest lake in the world and the only one of the five Great Lakes located wholly within the boundaries of the United States. The lake helps moderate Chicago's weather, making it somewhat cooler in summer and warmer in winter. Summer high temperatures average in the mid-80s (Fahrenheit), though the thermometer

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can easily top 100 degrees. Winters are cold and snowy with average highs in the 30s. The lowest recorded temperature was 27 degrees below zero in January 1985.

Encompassing 234 square miles, the city sits on a flat plan that was once the bed of an ancient glacial lake. The average elevation is just 579 feet above sea level. Much of the downtown business district and most of the luxurious high-rise apartment buildings, as well as numerous parks and public beaches, are located along the city's 29-mile lakefront.

With a population of nearly 3 million and 9 million in the greater metropolitan area—Chicago ranks as the third largest city in the United States and among the 25 largest urban areas in the world. Residents include immigrants from all over the world, who have created some 200 distinct ethnic neighborhoods that reflect the culture and cuisine of distant homelands. In the city's early days, workers from Ireland, Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe flocked to jobs in the city's stockyards, steel mills, and railroads. Chicago reportedly has more Swedish-Americans than any other U.S. city, as well as the largest Polish population outside of Poland. More recently, South Asian, Puerto Rican, Mexican, and Arab immigrants have added to the ethnic mix.

The greatest influx, however, was the so-called Great Migration from the rural southern United States between 1916 and the 1970s. About one-half million of the seven million African Americans who left the South were drawn to jobs in Chicago, especially during the two World Wars. Now accounting for about 36 percent of the city's population, African Americans have had a significant impact on Chicago, making it synonymous, for example, with two purely American forms of music—jazz and blues.

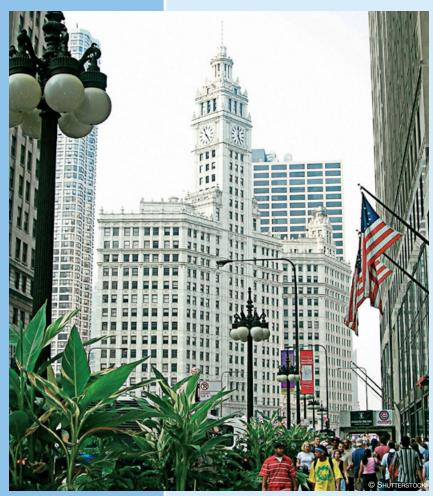
Commerce and Culture

Thanks to the diverse groups of people who have shaped its direction, Chicago has evolved from a city of stockyards and steel mills into a world-class city renowned for commerce and culture—and spectacular construction.

With one of the tallest skylines in the world, downtown Chicago is considered a showcase of architectural achievements. The building boom following the Great Fire of 1871 and construction of the 1893 World Exposition attracted some of the nation's leading architects, such as Daniel Burnham and Louis Sullivan. In the early 1900s, Chicago architect Frank Lloyd Wright became famous for designs of low, open-plan residences in the so-called Prairie style, inspired by the flat plains of the American Midwest. By the midtwentieth century, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and others were pioneering the sleek metal

The Sears Tower, a shiny black skyscraper, is 110 stories high and Chicago's tallest building.







(*Left*) The Wrigley Building, built in the 1920s, is a familiar landmark on Michigan Avenue.

(Right) Flowers adorn the sidewalks of the section of Michigan Avenue known as the Magnificent Mile.

and glass structures that began dominating the city skyline.

Chicago's highest skyscraper, the 110story Sears Tower, held the record as the world's tallest building from 1974 until 1998, when it was surpassed by the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Central business district—known as the Loop because it is encircled by the city's elevated train system (the "L")—has become a major financial center, home to three stock exchanges, as well as brokerage firms and insurance companies. Just minutes from the Loop is a stretch of Michigan Avenue known as the Magnificent Mile, an elegant shopping district featuring upscale department stores, luxury boutiques, critically-acclaimed restaurants, and some of the fanciest hotels in the Midwest—and, of course, some of the tallest buildings in the world.

Such features make Chicago a magnet for giant corporations. The city and surrounding suburbs host some 30 Fortune 500 companies, such as United Airlines, Allstate Insurance, and aerospace giant Boeing Company, which in 2001 moved its corporate headquarters from Seattle (where it was founded) to Chicago.

Printing, publishing, food processing, and medical products and service companies help fuel the city's economy. Because of its centralized location, Chicago remains a major transportation and distribution hub. O'Hare International Airport consistently ranks among the world's busiest airports, and many of Amtrak's long-distance rail passenger routes originate at Chicago's Union Station.

Not surprisingly, the city boasts several leading institutions of higher education, such as Northwestern University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and most notably the University of Chicago, considered one of the finest universities in the world. No fewer than 81 Nobel Prize laureates have been associated with the university over the years. One of them, physicist Enrico Fermi, conducted the world's first controlled nuclear reaction underneath the university's abandoned football stands in 1942.



The Ferris wheel and carousel are popular features of the amusement park on Navy Pier.

All that Chicago has to offer has made it a leading tourist and convention destination. Some 44 million people visit the city every year, more than a million of them from overseas. McCormick Place, the third largest convention center in the world, keeps Chicago near the top of the list of U.S. cities most favored as a convention site.

An Array of Leisure Activities

Visitors and residents alike can take advantage of Chicago's numerous amenities, including 70 museums, 570 parks, 31 beaches, and 18 miles of lakefront bike paths. Arts patrons can enjoy the Chicago Symphony, widely recognized as one of the finest orchestras in the world, several prominent ballet companies, dozens of live theater performances, and countless nightclubs specializing in Chicago's unique brand of blues and jazz.

With enough teams to please every sports fan, Chicago has been dubbed Best Sports City in the United States by *The Sporting News*. Fans can cheer for two major league baseball

teams, the Cubs and White Sox, the Chicago Bears football team, the Chicago Blackhawks hockey team, and the Chicago Bulls basketball team, which superstar Michael Jordan led to six national championships in the 1990s. The city hosted the World Cup Soccer Tournament in 1994 and is among the finalists vying to become the site of the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Other popular attractions include:

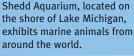
- Sears Tower Skydeck. On a clear day, the view from the 103rd floor observation deck extends 40 to 50 miles into parts of four states. Visitors can enjoy the sights through high-powered telescopes and can explore exhibits about Chicago. Knee-High Chicago offers a kid-level display about Chicago sports and other highlights.
- Navy Pier. Constructed in 1916, the pier was used over the years as a military and freight terminal and public gathering place but by the late 1900s had fallen into disrepair. A 150-million-dollar redevelopment project in

the mid-1990s turned the pier into Chicago's lakefront playground, with parks, restaurants, amusement rides, boat cruises, the Chicago Children's Museum, and the Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

- Art Institute of Chicago. One of the best in the United States, this art museum contains some 260,000 works and is famous for its collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings.
- Field Museum of Natural History. Established in 1893 to display items from the World's Columbia Exposition, the Field Museum is now home to "Sue," the most complete and best preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur skeleton in the world, and to an exhibit known as Underground Adventure, which offers a bug's eye view of the world.
- Museum of Science and Industry. Housed in the only building remaining from the 1893 exposition, this family favorite features a walk-through heart,

- a simulated coal mine, and a miniature trains exhibit.
- **Shedd Aquarium.** This lakefront attraction features more than 25,000 marine animals and exhibits that recreate a Caribbean coral reef, an Amazon flood plain, and the Pacific Northwest coastline. Daily Oceanarium shows star performing dolphins and beluga whales.
- Lincoln Park Zoo. Chicago's second most popular attraction (after Navy Pier), this is one of the oldest U.S. zoos and one of the few that are still admission-free. Highlights include the polar bear pool, a Children's Zoo, and a carousel on which children ride replicas of endangered animals instead of horses.

During its 170-year history, Chicago clearly has come a long way from the husky, brawling "Hog Butcher for the World" that poet Sandburg described. Now a gleaming example of the best of American urban progress, it remains the City of the Big Shoulders, eager to embrace all who come to share in its bounty and promise.







MILLENNIUM PARK

The newest jewel in the Chicago landscape is Millennium Park, completed in 2004—four years after the Millennium it was designed to commemorate. It was worth the wait. The result is in effect the world's largest roof garden, a 24.5-acre showcase of architecture, monumental sculptures, and landscape design built atop unsightly railroad yards and parking garages in a corner of Grant Park in the downtown Loop.

Now one of Chicago's most popular destinations, Millennium Park features an ice skating rink (during the winter), a theater for music and dance, a bandshell for outdoor concerts, and space for outdoor art exhibitions. Artistic highlights include:

- **Jay Pritzker Pavilion.** The signature piece of the park, this bandshell represents a revolutionary design for outdoor concert venues with its billowing top of brushed stainless steel ribbons connected to a trellis that supports a state-of-theart sound system. The pavilion, which accommodates 4,000 people in fixed seats and 7,000 more on the Great Lawn, is home to the Grant Park Music Festival and numerous other free outdoor concerts.
- Crown Fountain. A first of its kind in public art, this fountain consists of two 50-foot glass brick towers with LED video screens that display the faces of 1,000 Chicagoans representing the city's diverse population. Water flowing from outlets in the center of the screens makes it appear as if water is spouting from their mouths.
- Cloud Gate. This 110-ton elliptical sculpture of highly polished stainless steel was inspired by a drop of liquid mercury. Its shiny surface reflects Chicago's skyline and clouds above it and invites visitors to enjoy their reflected images from a variety of angles.
- Lurie Garden. A tribute to Chicago's motto "Urbs in Horto" (city in a garden), this 2.5-acre garden displays flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees. A 15-foot high hedge enclosing the garden on two sides is a living representation of Carl Sandburg's famous description of Chicago as the City of the Big Shoulders.

(Left) Millennium Park, a popular destination in downtown Chicago, showcases architectural and landscape design.

(Middle) Jay Pritzker Pavilion, a venue for outdoor concerts, is the stunning centerpiece of Millennium Park.

(Right) Visitors to Millennium Park enjoy gazing at reflections in the shiny surface of the "Cloud Gate" sculpture.

Websites of Interest

www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org

"Encyclopedia of Chicago," presented by the Chicago History Museum, the Newberry Library, and Northwestern University, includes alphabetical entries, maps, and special features, such as a timeline, statistical tables, and a dictionary of leading Chicago businesses.

www.chicagohs.org/history

The History Files of the Chicago Historical Society offer an in-depth look at some of Chicago's most memorable times, such as the Great Fire of 1871, the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, and the Al Capone era.

www.cityofchicago.org

This official website for the City of Chicago has an "Exploring Chicago" section with information about local attractions and travel to and within the city.

www.choosechicago.com

This site of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau provides detailed information

about tours and attractions, museums, theater, dining, nightlife, and the city's ethnic neighborhoods.

www.millenniumpark.org

Learn about the history and special attractions of Chicago's new Millennium Park at this official website.

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